UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/922
S/22057
9 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 28
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 December 1990 from the representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the "Document of Conclusions" adopted by the Security Commission at its 3rd meeting held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 23 and 24 November 1990 (see annex). This document reflects the progress made in the negotiations on security, verification, and the control and limitation of weapons in the region, which are proceeding in accordance with the terms of reference set forth by the Central American Presidents in the Esquipulas agreements and, particularly, in the provisions of paragraph 15 of the Antigua Declaration.

We should be grateful if you would have this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) José Maria BORBON
Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) Ricardo CASTANEDA-CORNEJO
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of El Salvador to the United Nations

(Signed) Rafael CASTELLANOS-CARRILLO
Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Guatemala to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto FLORES-BERMUDEZ
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Honduras to the United Nations

(Signed) Robert MAYORGA-CORTES
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua to the United Nations

Annex

In accordance with the terms of reference set forth by the Central American Presidents in the Esquipulas agreements and, specifically, in the provisions of paragraph 15 of the Antigua Declaration, the Security Commission held its 3rd meeting in Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras, on 23 and 24 November, in order to continue the negotiations on security, verification and the control and limitation of weapons in the region.

The Security Commission considered the report of the delegation of El Salvador concerning the current outbreak of armed actions affecting the civilian population in that country.

The Security Commission felt that the hostilities by the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) were an obstacle to the execution of its mandate and, accordingly, reiterated the recent Central American initiative addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations asking him to personally make the necessary representations to FMLN in order to achieve a prompt cessation of hostilities.

The Commission urged the international community to support this move. Likewise it expressed its gratitude to the Government of President Alfredo Cristiani for its willingness to continue the process of dialogue despite the latest FMLN offensive and confirmed its legitimate interest in the achievement of a peaceful, negotiated solution that would put an end to the armed conflict in El Salvador.

It stressed the importance of the call made by the Executive Commission at its 10th meeting to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to keep it informed regarding the activities of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) as envisaged in the documents regarding the operational modalities of ONUCA, and recommended that such information should be provided periodically.

The Security Commission expressed its satisfaction at the renewal of ONUCA's mandate and, with a view to strengthening ONUCA's organizational and operational structure in order to enhance the effectiveness of its verification, recommended the adoption of the following steps:

(a) Improvement of communication with the armed forces and foreign ministries of the Central American countries;

(b) Improvement or, if necessary, acquisition of communications systems necessary for the performance of its work;

(c) Installation of radar equipment for air, land and maritime surveillance;

(d) Strengthening of ONUCA's presence and verification activities on the borders and at customs posts;

(e) Improvement of co-operation with the intelligence establishments of each country, in order to obtain the verification requested;

(f) Build-up of land, sea and air transport equipment and the relevant personnel in order to carry out the mission entrusted to it.

The Security Commission gave careful consideration to the report of the Technical Sub-Committee set up at the San Salvador meeting on 12 and 13 September.

The said Sub-Committee submitted a proposed form or model for drawing up inventories of military facilities, and the strength and weapons of military and security forces of the Central American region, the content of which was approved by the Committee in plenary.

In accordance with the report of the Technical Sub-Committee, the elements conducive to the establishment of a reasonable or proportional balance of forces in the region were defined in principle.

Accordingly, the Security Commission agreed that the Technical Sub-Committee should meet on 4 February 1991, in San José, Costa Rica, to continue its work on factor charts, and that it should submit its report on the subject at the Commission's next meeting which is scheduled for 26 February, in Managua, Nicaragua. The Commission also decided that the inventories should be submitted at that time.

It was agreed that a mechanism for verifying the inventories should be created, consisting of the five Central American countries, with the assistance of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The members of the Security Commission welcomed the support expressed by the representatives of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States for the steps taken by the Security Commission concerning technical assistance in the said matter. In that connection the Secretary pro tempore of the Commission was asked to convey to the Secretaries-General of the above organizations the request of the Central American countries for such assistance.

It strongly condemned the indiscriminate use of mines and other rudimentary explosive devices used by the irregular forces, branding it a serious threat to life and physical integrity particularly of the civilian population.

It asked the Secretary pro tempore of the Security Commission to make the necessary representations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in order to secure international assistance and support for mine-clearing operations in the region.

The Security Commission considered the aspect concerning the disarming of civilians in the Central American region and agreed on the following proposal:

That, at the next meeting of the Executive Commission, the Central American Foreign Ministers should address a note to the Secretary-General of the United

Nations and to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States asking them to help the Commission work out an arrangement for disarming civilians in accordance with the internal legislation of each country. The assistance requested could be channelled, inter alia, through the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV).

The visiting delegations thanked the people and Government of Honduras for their fraternal hospitality and for the facilities extended to them during their stay in Honduras, which had contributed significantly to the success of the meeting.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras
24 November 1990